

Specialized Metabolite Gene Clusters from Sponge Holobionts

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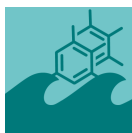
Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Marine sponges now have a history of discovery of natural products with potential pharmaceutical applications. However, in most cases, the actual producer of the natural product in the sponge holobionts (sponge and associated microorganisms) remains unknown. In addition, the genetic machinery encoding for the natural products is generally unknown. The next-generation sequencing revolution has made it possible to discover hundreds of (novel) specialized metabolite gene clusters from one sponge sample. Although it is still difficult to link specialized metabolite gene clusters to the natural products they encode, the gene clusters themselves provide important leads to identify biochemical novelty and deserve prioritization in further development, such as heterologous expression.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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